

Statement of Martin Sbriglio
before the
Human Services Committee
March 12, 2013
Senate Bill 1084

Sen. Slossberg, Rep. Abercrombie and members of the committee:

My name is Martin Sbriglio. I am president and chief executive officer of Ryder's Health Systems, Inc., that owns and operates several long-term care facilities in Connecticut. We are not some out-of-state conglomerate—we are a family-owned company that has tried to do the best we can in serving the needs of our patients for over 63 years. I am offering comments today in strong support of Senate Bill 1084, *An Act Concerning Delays in Medicaid Application Processing*.

The legislation would set a 45-day timeframe for processing Medicaid applications. I can't tell you how important and beneficial this would be to nursing homes in Connecticut. Right now, we provide care for patients who applications are "pending" at DSS and we receive nothing in the way of payments.

You had a bill last week for public hearing, SB 1025, that would permit DSS to pay a portion of the costs of care when an application for Medicaid is pending. We need this—I can tell you of case after case where we have incurred hundreds of thousands of dollars in care but have not seen any reimbursement from the state. This just is not fair.

We are assessed a provider tax. We pay it—it goes to the state's General Fund but we then see nothing come back on the cases where Medicaid application processing has not been completed. I've had to go the bank and get short-term loans to cover the cost of these cases. Senate Bill 1084 would give us relief in respect to having applications for Medicaid processed quickly starting next April. .

I would urge you to support the approach embodied in Senate Bill 1084. If you do so, it will get us half of the reimbursements we are entitled to. That, in turn, will better enable us to concentrate on our core mission of providing consistent, high-quality care to our residents and frail elderly.

Thank you.